

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of ) **MAIL STOP IF**  
Hiraku Murayama et al. )  
Application No.: 10/802,869 ) Group Art Unit: 3736  
Filed: March 18, 2004 ) Examiner: JEFFREY GERBEN  
For: GUIDE WIRE AND METHOD OF ) HOEKSTRA  
MANUFACTURING THE GUIDE ) Confirmation No.: 5448  
WIRE )

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS  
FOR ALLOWANCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Notice of Allowability recently issued in connection with the above-identified application is accompanied by an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. The Statement of Reasons for Allowance refers to Claims 1-14, 26-29, and 33, but does not distinguish between the five independent claims and does not acknowledge that the wording in the five claims is different. This paper is being filed simply to clarify the record and make clear that which is otherwise apparent -- namely that the comments in the Statement should not be understood to imply that Claims 1, 12, 13, 14 and 33 all set forth the language referenced in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

By way of example, the comments in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance refer to "a distal end side portion formed of a first metal; a proximal end side portion formed of a second more rigid metal" etc. While this language is a generalization of that used in Claim 1, Claim 1 more accurately provides "a distal end side portion having a proximal end and formed of a first metallic material, a proximal end side portion having a distal end and formed of a second metallic material higher in rigidity than said first metallic material" etc. Still further, the comments in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance refer to "an intermediate portion disposed therebetween, comprising a sintered cylindrical body formed of a mixture of a powder of said first

metal and a powder of said second metal, having a predetermined length with an integral gradient composition varying the weight ratio, or concentration, of each of the metals, wherein the composition of each of the metals increases when approaching the side formed thereof." Claim 1 more specifically recites that "said intermediate portion comprises an integral gradient composition portion having a predetermined length in which a weight ratio of said first metallic material in the metallic material mixture decreases and a weight ratio of said second metallic material in the metallic material mixture increases along the length of said intermediate portion, from the distal end side portion toward the proximal end side portion" and Claim 14 recites that "said intermediate portion comprises a gradient composition portion having a predetermined length in which a weight ratio of said first metallic material decreases from the distal end side toward the proximal end side, and in which a weight ratio of said second metallic material in the metallic material mixture increases along the length of said intermediate portion from the distal end side toward the proximal end side."

It is thus understood that the comments in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance are not intended to imply that the allowed claims in this application recite anything different than that which the claims themselves recite.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this matter or should the Examiner disagree in any way with the comments set forth herein, the Examiner is kindly asked to contact the undersigned so that such matter can be discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: 11/4/2009

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